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American School  
of Classical Studies  
in Rome

AN INSCRIPTION OF THE *LABICANI*  
*QUINTANENSES*

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THE inscriptions here reproduced are cut upon a large marble base 1.30 m. high, 0.60 m. wide, and 0.58 m. thick, now in the small municipal museum of Frascati (Fig. 1). The base was discovered in 1899 in the Vigna Moretti below the hill of La Colonna near the fifteenth milestone on the Via Labicana. Imperfect copies of the inscriptions, which are difficult to read, were published by Tomassetti and Ashby, with a discussion of their topographical importance.<sup>1</sup>

The difficulty of deciphering these inscriptions results from their partial erasure in antiquity. The marble base was used first in 196 A.D., probably to support an honorary statue, and an inscription recording the name of the person thus honored, the names of the individuals charged with the erection, and the fact that the space for its location was voted *decurionum decreto* was placed on the front of the base, and on the left side the date of the dedication with the names of two *quattuorviri*. About a hundred years later the inscription on the front was almost entirely erased, leaving traces of the words in the last



FIGURE 1. — MARBLE BASE AT  
FRASCATI.



<sup>1</sup> Tomassetti, *B. Com. Rom.* 1899, pp. 289-293, *Not. Scav.* 1900, p. 51; Ashby, *Papers of the British School at Rome*, I (1902), pp. 257, 258, and Map V. *American Journal of Archaeology*, Second Series. *Journal of the Archaeological Institute of America*, Vol. XIII (1909), No. 2.

six lines only, and a second inscription, in honor of the emperor Maximianus (285–305 A.D.), was cut upon the upper two-thirds of the space. Tomassetti believed that at this time the base was partially or wholly cemented in a wall, leaving only the front visible. This may account for the preservation of a portion of the inscription on the left side. Finally, in consequence of the *damnatio memoriae* of Maximianus, the second inscription on the front of the base was in turn erased and made almost illegible.

At Professor Dessau's request I made a new examination of the stone in the hope of securing, if possible, a more nearly complete reading of all three inscriptions. By means of squeezes and other devices I succeeded in making out the imperial titulus, the dedication on the left side, and the last three lines (ll. 14–16) of the first inscription with fragments of ll. 11–13.

To take each up in order, the only portion of the first erased inscription which I was able to read is the following :

Traces of letters only in ll. 1–10.

STITVIT  IN  
SCRIPTA  TO  
STATVAM  N  
CVRLTITEDIOLFFABPROCV  O  
15 PATREETLTITEDIOLFFABPROCVLO  
FRATRE. L.D.D.D.

... *stituit* . . . . . *in*-*scripta* . . . . . [*aere colla*]*to* | *statuam* . . . .  
.. [*censueru*]*nt* | , *cur*(*antibus*) *L. Titedio L. f. Fab. Procu*[*lin*]*o* |  
*patre et L. Titedio L. f. Fab. Proculo* | *fratre. L*(*ocus*) *d*(*atus*)  
*d(ecurionum) d(ecreto)*.

In ll. 11–13 the letters are  $2\frac{1}{2}$  cm. high, in the remaining lines,  $3\frac{1}{2}$  cm. The restorations in ll. 12, 13, 14 are based upon well-defined traces of letters. The phrase *l(ocus) d(atus) d(ecurionum) d(ecreto)* occurs in dedicatory, honorary, and sepulchral inscriptions; if, moreover, the spot where the base was discovered is rightly identified as the forum of the Labicani Quintanenses (see below), this inscription may record the erection of an honorary statue to some distinguished citizen of the town. The nomen *Titedius*, although not common, occurs

several times in the inscriptions of Central Italy. One (*C.I.L.* VI, 33029) of unknown provenience preserves this name belonging to a man who was *IIII vir iur. dic. quin.*; another (*C.I.L.* X, 5405) records that a *C. Titedius* was *quattuorvir* at Interamnae (?).

The dedication on the left side of the base, which belongs with the earlier inscription on the front, I read as follows:

K · IVNIS  
 [hatched] DEXTRO · II · C<sup>os</sup> June 1, 196 A.D.  
 [hatched] TRASEA · PRISCO  
 [hatched] MNESTHERAE ·  
 [hatched] SYNCHAE RONT<sup>e</sup>  
 IIII · VIR

[*Ded(icatum)*] *K(alendis) Iunis* | . . . . . *Dextro II c[os.]* | . . . . .  
*Trasea Prisc[o]* | . . . . . *Mnestherae* | . . . . . *Synchaeront[e]* | *IIII*  
*vir(is)*.

The letters are about 2 cm. high and are so shallow that it is only after long scrutiny that the words can be made out. Cuttings or depressions on the stone before ll. 2-5 may be the remains of chiselled letters no longer legible; at any rate, I assume the existence in each of these lines of a praenomen and nomen, first, because the use of the cognomen alone for the *quattuorviri* would be quite irregular; and also because otherwise the words of the last line would not be placed symmetrically with reference to the other lines. The names in full of the consuls for 196 A.D. are C. Domitius Dexter and L. Valerius Messalla Thrasea Priscus (*C.I.L.* X, 1786). The reading, IVRED, which Tomassetti restores in the last line, seems to me very uncertain.

Quite unusual is the placing of *cos.* after the name of the consul first mentioned. *Mnestherae* is, of course, for *Mnestere* (abl.). The cognomen *Synchaeron* is rare; at any rate, I do not know of its occurrence in any Latin inscription. Συρχαίρων appears in a Greek sepulchral inscription of the Roman period (Kaibel, *Inscr. Gr. Ital. et Sicil.* 1473).

The text of the later imperial inscription is as follows:

· I M P · C · M · V A L E R I O ·  
 · M A X I M I A N O · P I O ·  
 · F E L I C I ·  
 I N B I C T O · A V G ·  
 O R D O L A B I C A N  
 · Q · Q ·  
 · D · N · M · Q · E I V S ·

*Imp. C(aesari) M. Valerio | Maximiano pio | felici | inbicto Aug  
 (usto) | ordo Labican(orum) | Q(uintanensium) | d(omino) n(ostro)  
 m(aiestati)q(ue) eius.*

The letters of ll. 1-5 are 3 cm. high, of ll. 6, 7, about 4 cm. The letters of ll. 2, 3, and 4 are difficult to make out; l. 2 especially is almost illegible. In the last line the use of drill points to accentuate the letters is still plainly seen. Traces of letters belonging to the first inscription appear frequently; for example, L at the beginning of the first line, A after P in l. 1, and RP before D in l. 7, but they are insufficient to permit the restoration of any word. The abbreviation C. for *Caesar* occurs in two inscriptions of Diocletian and Maximianus, *C.I.L.* IX, 6064 (= X, 6969), found at Melfi in Apulia on the ancient Via Herculia, and *C.I.L.* X, 6975, from Marsico Nuovo in Lucania, also on the Via Herculia. But this abbreviation appears as early as 139 A.D. (*C.I.L.* IX, 2828). Noteworthy in our inscription is the omission of the name Aurelius in the title of the emperor. The inscription must be as late at least as 286 A.D., in which year Maximianus received the title of Augustus.

The place of discovery of the inscription and the reading of another (*C.I.L.* XIV, 2770), quoted below, in which the words *Rei publicae Lavicanorum Quintanensium* appear, leave no doubt that the abbreviation Q·Q in l. 6 means *Quintanensium*. If, then, as Tomassetti assumes, the discovery near our base of blocks of *sperone*, slabs of marble, cornices, and other architectural fragments indicates the existence of a public square or forum, the topographical importance of ll. 6, 7 is considerable, since we may recognize in the place the site of the post-station,

Ad Quintanas,<sup>1</sup> whose inhabitants were called Lab(v)icani Quintanenses, and whose location is placed by the Itineraries fifteen miles from Rome on the Via Labicana. Dessau (*C.I.L.* XIV, p. 275) suggests that the town was called Quintanae, this name being derived possibly from the name of a large estate in which the station was first established. The name is attested also by the sepulchral inscription of unknown provenience, now cemented in the north front of the Casale Ciuffa (a little more than seven hundred yards west of the spot where our inscription was found), *D. M. Parthenio arcario rei publicae Lavicanorum Quintanensium* (*C.I.L.* XIV, 2770); and by the brick-stamp, EX · PREDIS QUINTANENSIB AGATHYRS · AVG · LIB<sup>2</sup> (*C.I.L.* XV, 462 c = XIV, 4090, 14), found "inter Montecompatri et La Colonna," which shows the existence of a *praedia Quintanensia*.<sup>3</sup> Ad Quintanas was probably not on the site of the ancient Labicum, which, according to Strabo (V, p. 237), occupied a lofty elevation 120 stadia, or fifteen miles, from Rome on the right (going toward the south) of the Via Labicana. The discussion of the exact location of Labicum has been a long one, but topographers are now generally agreed that it was on or near the hill of Monte Compatri.<sup>4</sup> In imperial times, then, the town on the hill lost its importance, and the municipal centre was transferred to a point lower down.

WALTER DENNISON.

<sup>1</sup> *Ordo* (= *decuriones*) is occasionally found, as in our inscription, with the genitive of the municipes, e.g. *ordo Baulanorum*, *C.I.L.* X, 1746, *ordo Cereatinorum Marianorum*, *C.I.L.* X, 5781.

<sup>2</sup> The corrected text of Dressel.

<sup>3</sup> Cf. also *C.I.L.* XV, pp. 8, 131 ff., and *Eph. Epig.* V, p. 256, footnote 1.

<sup>4</sup> Dessau, *l.c.*; Nissen, *Ital. Landeskunde*, II, 601; Ashby, *l.c.*